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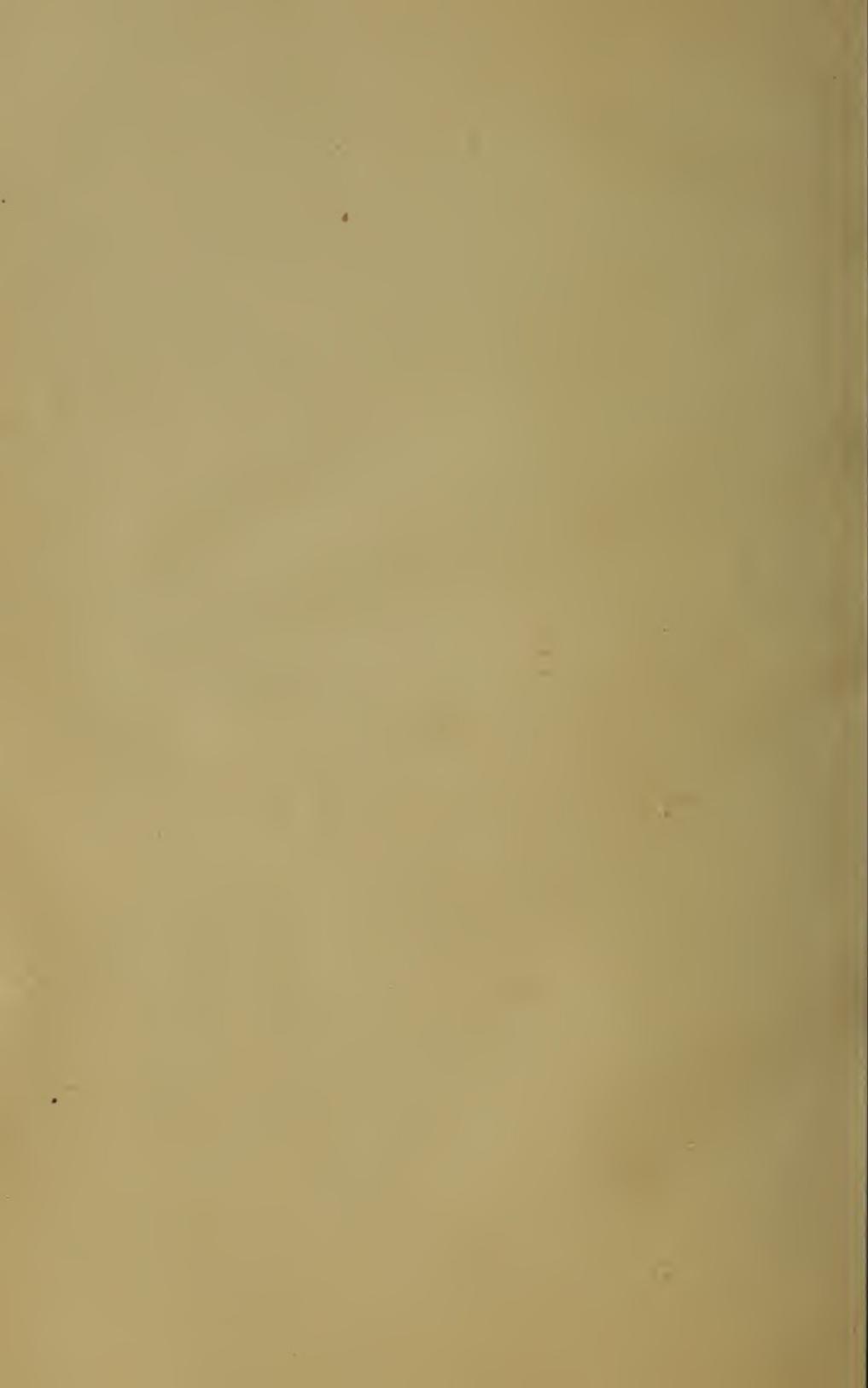
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AUTHOR

GEO. J. WEBSTER.

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## PREFACE.

THE author has so often thought that the great majority of the people, and in fact all of us, do not know near enough about the great organic and fundamental law of our land. If we did but know it our National Constitution is probably the grandest instrument of writing by which a great people is governed that the world has ever seen. And yet there are people in the land, even voters, who hardly know that there is such a thing as a National Constitution. The great fault of this is because those who do know that there is such a thing, and who should be the teachers of the people, do not fully recognize its great importance. But by that instrument of writing all disputes are settled and all questions of political economy determined. The National Constitution is the supreme law of the land. The

judgments arrived at through the study of its purposes and of its plans are final.

The plan of this work will be to quote parts from this great Charter and make comments upon those parts. Nearly the whole Constitution will be quoted in this manner, so that the book will contain it almost in its entirety, and thus will it be a means, it is to be hoped, of helping to keep the great subject before the view of the people.

Although the name of God is not mentioned in the National Constitution, yet the true spirit of it cannot be fully comprehended without divine aid. Our forefathers in adopting it felt the movements of the Holy Spirit, and Franklin said that he was not satisfied with it because it was perfection but because it was so near perfection. Amendments were afterwards added to make it nearer perfection, and in the time of Lincoln it made a great stride towards perfection through amendment. It is our duty to bring it still nearer perfection. Will we do it? Let us pray. G. J. W.

*Conshohocken, Pa. 1st, 12mo. 1892.*

## PREAMBLE.

WE the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

This Preamble is very plain and simple. It starts out by saying, "We the People," which brings the whole subject to the attention of all. Then it states why the Constitution is ordained and established. The first reason is "to form a more perfect union," because it is true that a united people is a strong nation. The language is not to form a perfect union, but to form a more perfect one, as other forms of union had been tried and were found lacking, so that something better was wanting, and the test of a century has shown that something more perfect was found. The next reasons

for ordaining and establishing the Constitution are that justice may be established, which is so essential in good government, that domestic tranquility may be insured and all live in peace and harmony, that the defense may be provided for, which in these days is being sought for more through arbitration, it is to be hoped, than through means of warfare, that the general welfare may be provided for, which is an impartial provision, and last, but by no means the least, that the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity may be secured, which shows the regard for future generations.

The plan of Government was then divided into three heads, the Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary—the first, to make the laws, the second, to co-operate with the Legislative and carry the laws into effect, and the third to determine the Constitutionality of the laws.

The first section of the first Article of the Constitution provides that “all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a

## House of Representatives."

The second section tells how members of the House of Representatives are to be chosen, "by the people of the several states," and that they shall be chosen every second year. As at present these members do not serve for more than a year after their election, unless there is an extra session of Congress before that time, would not the interests of the country be better promoted if they met shortly after their election, and if one-half of their number were chosen every alternate year? Members of the House directly represent the people, and if they met sooner than they do legislation could be enacted while it was fresh in the minds of the people. One-half of the number elected alternately would prevent the House from being composed practically of all new members, the majority of whom, it may be, know very little or nothing about practical legislation for want of experience. This section provides that a representative is to be at least twenty-five years of age, been seven years a citizen of the United States, and

an inhabitant of the State in which he is chosen. Provision is made for the apportionment of representatives, based upon a census to be taken every ten years. The number is not to exceed one for every thirty thousand inhabitants, but the ratio of representation is very much less than that, and each state is to have at least one representative. "When vacancies happen in the representation from any State, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies," is a provision of the Constitution, and power is given to the House of Representatives to choose their speaker and other officers. The sole power of impeachment is given to it.

The third section provides for the Senators. Each state legislature is to elect two of them, who are to be chosen for six years, each Senator having one vote. By a wise provision the Senators are divided into three classes, one-third of them being chosen every two years. By having a Senate the different states are given a representation in the legislative branch of the national government.

In case of a vacancy during the recess of a legislature of a state the Executive thereof is to make temporary appointments. To be a Senator a person must be at least thirty years of age, nine years a citizen of the United States, and when elected, an inhabitant of the State for which he shall be chosen. The Vice-President of the United States is the President of the Senate, but has no vote, unless the members are equally divided. The Senate has the power to choose its other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States. It has the sole power to try all impeachments; and when sitting for that purpose the Senators are under oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, as happened once, in the case of Andrew Johnson, the Chief Justice presides, and no person is to be convicted without the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present. In cases of impeachment judgment is not to extend further than removal from office,

and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law. It is often claimed that "public office is a public trust," which is true, but it is also one of honor or profit. As one of profit it is not to be used for mercenary purposes.

Section four provides the times, places and manner of holding elections for senators and representatives, which are to be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof: but Congress may at any time, by law, make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing senators. Congress is to assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

The fifth section is very important in providing that each house shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, which thus

decides all contests of members of either house in this manner. A majority of each house constitutes a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and what is of great interest, it "may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each house may provide. That provision is a guard against the shirking of duty, and its enforcement would prevent much filibustering. Each house determines the rules of its proceedings, punishes its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expels a member. Should any injustice be done in this direction, the next election settles it. A journal of its proceedings is to be kept by each house, and provision is made for the publication of it. The adjournment of Congress, excepting for three days or less, requires joint action.

Section sixth provides for the compensation for the services of senators and representatives. In another book of this size, entitled, *My Own Doctor*, some

views on this subject have been expressed on page 47. Senators and representatives are privileged from arrest during attendance at the session of Congress, except for treason, felony and breach of the peace. They are not to be questioned out of Congress for any speech or debate made in either house. No senator or representative can hold any other office under the United States.

Section seventh provides that all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills. The powers of Congress are checked in a clause that requires every bill after having passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate, before it becomes a law, to be presented to the President of the United States, who, if he approves it, is to sign it, and if not, he is to return it without his signature to the house in which it originated. The power of the President is checked here by this house being required to reconsider the bill, after having entered at large on their

journal the objections of the President who is to give his reasons for disapproval, when it may be passed by a two-thirds majority over the President's veto, and if so passed by the other house, it becomes a law without the approval of the President. The President cannot kill a bill by default, because if he does not sign it within ten days (Sundays excepted) after having received it, it becomes a law, unless Congress should by its adjournment prevent its return. Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of both houses is necessary (excepting cases of adjournment) is to be passed as in the case of a bill.

Section eighth is very important because of defining the powers conferred upon Congress. The first clause reads :

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States ; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Great provision is made by this clause. The

next is :

To borrow money on the credit of the United States. The United States is an organization composed of people united for the purpose as specified in the first clause, and as a means of business it may borrow money. The next is :

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes. It has been proposed to have a commission to regulate commerce with foreign nations, but if that commission were an international one established by a Constitutional treaty it would do more good. An interstate commission now regulates commerce among the several states. Much improvement might be made in dealing with the Indian tribes, to whom the land belonged at one time by natural inheritance. The next is :

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States. The next is :

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and to fix

the standard of weights and measures. The subject of coining money still bothers Congress after more than one hundred years of effort to use this power aright. The next is :

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States. The next is :

To establish post-offices and post-roads. Wonderful progress has been made in this direction for the interests of the people, although it has not been upon a self-supporting basis. The next is :

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times, to authors and inventors, the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries. Congress has made good laws regarding this which probably might be improved some, but more can be done internationally. The next is :

To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court. The next is :

To define and punish piracies and felonies on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations. The next is :

To declare war and grant letters of

marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water. It is to be regretted that the condition of the people has been such as to require this clause, and it is to be hoped, as the signs of the times indicate it, that it will become obsolete, which will do away with the Secretary of War in the President's Cabinet. The next is :

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years. May this become obsolete because of not being needed. The next is :

To provide and maintain a navy. Civilization as it advances will certainly do away with the purpose of this clause, and the Secretary of the Navy in the President's Cabinet be an office belonging only to the past. The next is in regard to calling forth the militia, and so forth, followed by the next which provides for organizing the militia, and so forth. There will be no need of these as the age becomes more enlightened. The great mass of the people being law-abiding, transgressors will be easily dealt

with in the courts. The next clause provides for the creation of the District of Columbia, as it is now called, and for legislation in it. And the next clause reads :

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof. This is a very wise provision, and is so broad that any amendment made at any time can be enforced without making a special wording to that effect.

Section ninth defines the limitations to the powers of Congress. The first clause deals with immigration. Prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight immigration shall not be prohibited, but a tax or duty not exceeding ten dollars on each person might be imposed. Hence it is to be inferred that after that year immigration may be prohibited, and thus the paupers, lunatics, and criminals of other countries can be forbidden to land in this country. Prob-

ably a tax can be imposed, but why license the undesirable class of people of other countries? This section prohibits the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion (the days of which it is hoped are passed) the public safety may require it. No bill of attainder or ex post facto law is to be passed. No capitation or other direct tax is to be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken. No tax or duty is to be laid on articles exported from any state. No preference is to be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another: nor are vessels bound to, or from, one state, obliged to enter, clear, or pay duties in another. No money is to be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law: and a regular statement and account of the receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time. No title of nobility is to be granted by the United States: And no person holding

any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of Congress, accept of any present, emolument, office, or title, of any kind whatever, from any king, prince, or foreign state.

Section tenth defines the limitations to the powers of the states. No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation ; grant letters of marque and reprisal ; coin money ; emit bills of credit ; make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts ; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility. No state shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any impost or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing its inspection laws, and the revenue thus derived shall be paid into the United States Treasury. No state is to lay any duty of tonnage, and the rest is in regard to war measures, which it is hoped are becoming to be no longer needed.

Article Two is in reference to the Executive power. By section first the Ex-

ecutive power is to be vested in a President of the United States of America, who is to hold his term of office for four years. There is no limiting the number of terms of office, but the two-term example of Washington has so far been followed in the history of the country, although Grover Cleveland has received a third nomination for the office and been elected twice at this writing. The Vice-President is chosen at the same time as the President for the same term and they are elected by each state appointing in such manner as the legislature thereof may determine a number of electors equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in Congress: but no senator or representative or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector. Article Twelfth of the Amendments provides the manner of the electors fulfilling their duty. They are to meet in their respective states and vote by ballot for President and Vice-President. It is an excellent provision of the

Constitution that the people elect the representatives, that they elect the legislatures which in turn elect the senators, and that they elect the electors who in turn elect the President and Vice-President, thus making the representation in the government more diversified. The ballots of the electors, having been distinctly marked for President, and for Vice-President, are opened by the President of the Senate in the presence of the members of the house and senate, and the votes counted. If no choice is made by the electors, the President and Vice-President having to receive a majority of the votes cast, the House of Representatives proceeds to ballot for President, and if no choice is made by the 4th of March when the session ends, then the Vice-President of the United States becomes the President. If the electors do not choose a Vice-President the Senate chooses one. Congress determines the time of choosing electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes which is the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen is eligible to the office of President, and Article Twelfth of the Amendments does not permit a person for Vice-President who would be ineligible to the office of President. And no person who is not thirty-five years of age and who has not been fourteen years a resident of the United States can be President. If the President should be removed from office through death, resignation or inability to discharge his duties, then the Vice-President becomes President, and in case of the removal of both of these Congress provides for the emergency. The President is to be compensated for performing his duties, and before entering upon them he is to take the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly affirm (or swear) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States." As we are enjoined, "Swear not at all," humility will keep all to an affirmation.

Section two provides first that the

President is to be commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, a duty which it is to be hoped will not be required in the near future. He next has the power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the senators present concur, and he should be careful not to use this power unconstitutionally. He shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not otherwise provided for in the Constitution, and which shall be established by law; but Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments. The President has the power to fill all vacancies during the recess of the Senate by granting commissions which expire at the end of the next session. He shall from time to time inform Congress of the condition

of the Union, and recommend such measures as he judges necessary and expedient. He does this through annual and special messages. He can on extraordinary occasions convene both houses of Congress or either of them, and if there should be disagreement between them as to the time of adjournment he may adjourn them to such place as he may think proper. He receives ambassadors and other public ministers, and he takes care that the laws are faithfully executed. He commissions all the officers of the United States.

Section fourth provides that the President, Vice-President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

In article three are enumerated the purposes and powers of the Judiciary of the United States.

Section one provides that "the judicial power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may

from time to time ordain and establish." The judges of these courts hold their offices during good behavior, and are compensated for their services, which compensation is not to be diminished during their continuation in office.

Section two defines the duties of the judicial power, as "extending to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority ;—to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls ;—to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction ;— to controversies to which the United States shall be a party ;—to controversies between two or more states ;—between a state and citizens of another state ;— between citizens of different states ;—between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects." The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and

consuls, and those in which a state shall be a party. Appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and effect, is had in all other cases before mentioned, but Congress may make exceptions and regulations.

Section three defines treason against the United States as consisting in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person is to be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the overt act, or on confession in open court, and its punishment is provided for by Congress, but "no attainer of treason shall work corruption of blood or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted."

Section one of Article four defines the rights of states to full public faith, so that the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of any state shall not be questioned in another state, and Congress, by general laws, may prescribe the manner in which such acts, etc., shall be proved and the effect thereof.

Section two defines the privileges and immunities of citizens of each state as

extending to the other states. No person can flee from justice by escaping into another state from that in which the crime was committed, but shall be delivered up on demand of the executive authority of the state where the crime was committed to be removed to such a state. Another clause refers to the law regulating service or labor, which, happily, is now obsolete.

Section three defines the manner in which new states may be formed and admitted into the Union. This act is performed by Congress, but no new state is to be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of another, nor, is any state to be formed by the junction of two or more states or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of Congress. And Congress has power over all public lands.

Section four guarantees to every state a republican form of government, and the United States protects each of them against invasion, domestic violence, and the like, but civilization and Christianity will enlighten the people so that they

will not take part in invasion and violence, so that the few disturbers of the public peace will soon be brought to justice.

Article five defines the manner in which the Constitution may be amended. It is : “The Congress, whenever two-thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress,” with a provision that has reference to a former time, “and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.”

In Article six the validity of all debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of the Constitution,

are recognized as fully as before the adoption. The Constitution is the supreme law of the land, anything in the Constitution or laws of any state to the contrary notwithstanding. The laws of the United States made in pursuance of the Constitution, and all treaties so made, are supreme. Another clause makes provision for the oath or affirmation of senators and representatives, the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers both of the United States and of the several states, to support the National Constitution, but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

Article seven provides for the ratification of the Constitution, which was "done in convention by the unanimous consent of the states present the seventeenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven and of the independence of the United States of America the twelfth." In witness of this the mem-

bers of the convention subscribed their names, that of George Washington being subscribed first as President, and Deputy from Virginia.

Several amendments have been added to the Constitution. Even at the first session of the first Congress, 4th of March, 1789, a number were offered for consideration, ten of which were ratified by the Constitutional number of state legislatures by the middle of December, 1791. Another was proposed in 1794 and another 1803, which were both duly ratified. Shortly after the close of the Civil War, three more were proposed and duly became a part of the Constitution.

Article first of the amendments guarantees freedom in religion and speech, and of the press, as Congress is to make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The religious persecution of a former age brought forth this amendment, and when some people, like the Catholics, talk of establishing their religion they should remember former

times, and remember, too, that free agency is a God given right. No law is to be made to abridge the freedom of speech, or of the press. But when the language used threatens our free institutions punishment should be inflicted. The right of the people to assemble and petition the government is not to be violated through law.

Articles two and three refer to the militia and soldiers which are contrary to the spirit of peace, and it is to be hoped the need of them will pass away.

Article four protects the people from unlawful search warrants. The rights of the people in this respect are not to be violated, and the warrant, when issued, is to be supported by oath or affirmation, the place to be searched is to be described, and the person or things to be seized also.

Article five provides that "no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury." No person is to be subject for the same offense and twice put in jeop-

ardy of life or limb. A criminal is not to be compelled to witness against himself, nor to be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law. No private property is to be taken for public use without just compensation.

Article six provides for trial by jury. In all criminal prosecutions the accused has the right of public trial by jury and he is to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation. He is to be confronted with the witnesses against him, and he is to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, the assistance of counsel being provided for his defense.

Article seven provides that "in suits at common law where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of common law."

Article eight forbids the requirement of excessive bail, the imposition of excessive fines, and the infliction of cruel

and unusual punishments.

Article nine is important because all rights which are named in the Constitution are not to be construed as denying others which belong to the people. This prevents the Constitution from being bound together with iron bands that not even a Samson might break asunder in order that the people might enjoy greater, fuller, and grander liberty. The great persecutions, of a hundred years previous and the hard struggle with England taught the inaugurators of the National Constitution a great lesson of freedom. In his last days, George Fox, who is to the Religious Society of Friends what George Washington is to our country, said that "the Lord had sanctified all his sufferings," and he suffered much "for the cause of truth." We all suffer and through patient endurance the fruit will mature and ripen.

In article ten "the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." This article is

quite as important as the other just preceding.

In article eleven the judicial power is limited so that it is "not to be construed as extending to any suit in law or equity, commenced or prosecuted against one of the United States by citizens of another state, or by citizens or subjects of any foreign state."

Article twelve is an amendment respecting the election of President and Vice-President, which has already been embodied in this book under that subject.

By article thirteen slavery is prohibited. This great sin which was a reproach to the people, and because of which Jefferson "trembled when he remembered that God is just," was blotted out after a hard struggle through a terrible war, which itself is sin, so that now, "neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction," and Congress has power to

enforce this prohibition by appropriate legislation.

Section one of article fourteen defines citizens and their rights. Citizens of the United States "are all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof," and such are citizens of the state wherein they reside. No state can make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States. "Nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Section two provides for the adjustment of representation to the elective franchise. Section three defines disabling conditions to be such that no one who may have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States or given aid or comfort to their enemies, shall hold any office under them, when an oath had previously been taken to support the Constitution. Were officers quietly to affirm their support of the

Constitution instead of taking an oath, they would not be nearly as apt to become excited so as to engage in insurrection or rebellion. A quiet, meek Christian spirit will not rail at the counsels of the multitude. Section four provides that all public debts of the United States when authorized by law are valid and shall not be called into question. Congress has the power to enforce the provisions of this article.

Article fifteen extends the right of suffrage by prohibiting the denial or abridgment of that privilege on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude, and Congress is expressly given the power to enforce the provisions of this article.

The next thing now to consider are future amendments to the Constitution. A number of these are proposed, and it is quite probable that some of them never will be adopted, or even acted upon. There are those which propose changes rather than additions. There are others, though, that must be acted upon some day, and which must be

adopted. The most important of these is that of the prohibition of intoxicants. It is proposed to prohibit their manufacture, sale, exportation, importation, and transportation within the jurisdiction of the United States. Probably the question of the righteousness of such an amendment might be considered in this book. There are those who contend that it is conflicting with personal liberty to prohibit this iniquitous business. Some of these will even admit that the business is iniquitous, and yet will argue for the continuation of the works of iniquity. How can we ever have righteousness if iniquity is to be permitted to exist? It is righteousness that "exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people." All iniquity is sin. As to those who see no iniquity in the business they are blind—blind to the miseries and woes of their fellow-creatures. They are without love, and are willing, for a transient pleasure, (which wrecks the victim or those in the third and fourth generation,) to pass by unheeded the cries of want and of pain, and to permit

themselves and posterity to sink into degradation and shame. But will posterity always close its ear to this cry, and make themselves liable to sink forever into the pit? The fathers die, and the third and fourth generation pass away, but a new generation is ever coming. And some day a new generation will "rise on stepping stones of the dead past to higher things." These higher things will be found in the prohibition of all intoxicants, which word is more applicable, surely, to the scope of the subject, than others sometimes proposed; as when the term used is intoxicating beverages, which may be construed to mean tea, coffee, and chocolate, as well as alcoholic beverages, but which excludes tobacco and opium. The word, intoxicants, includes all. Certainly the personal use of opium and tobacco must some day be prohibited. And the injurious effects of tea, coffee, and chocolate will become so well known that they, too, will be prohibited, and hence all intoxicants should be prohibited. The theine in tea, caffeine in coffee, theo-

bromine in chocolate, narcotine in opium, and nicotine in tobacco, are active poisonous principles which make these things injurious in their effects upon the human system. . The principle of total abstinence must first become adopted by the individual before there can be concerted action on prohibition. This will be the rule of action, and when the majority of the people becomes educated to see and know its importance, prohibition will be so easy that it will be wondered why the country endured the evil so long. But then it is Providence. Temperance people often rely upon themselves and fall short of the mark, not appearing to know that total abstinence cannot be practiced without Divine Assistance. Profession is nothing but hypocrisy. Possession is the thing. An amendment to the Constitution prohibiting the manufacture, sale, exportation, importation, and transportation of all intoxicants is one that the morality of the age will demand. It is said that "the darkest hour is just before daylight," and when it looks as though the

country is completely given over to intoxication then will come the prohibitory amendment. But the people have a great deal to learn before they will be willing to adopt such an advanced amendment. They must be taught more and more "line upon line and precept upon precept." The evil effects of intoxicants may appear very plain to some people, but these should be patient with the blindness of others, for they have as many other things that are as much as they can bear. The language of Christ was, "I have yet many things to say unto you but ye cannot bear all now." Those who have gone before us could not bear all that can be borne to-day, but this is no excuse that we shall not adopt the truth as fast as we are able. We are not to shirk our duty because of the weight of the burden. "If we faint in the day of adversity our strength is small." The day of wickedness is prolonged because "the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full." There is a familiar saying that "every dog must have his day," and the dog of the rum

power must have his. And further it is God and His Christ who overthrows all evil and God's time is not our time. The evil that the children of Israel used to commit "in the sight of the Lord," whereby they would be delivered into the hands of the Philistines was that of not acknowledging the Power of God. They would rely on themselves and hence suffered defeat. It is the Arm of the Lord that alone can save. Hence all work for an amendment should be non-partisan for God is in no party. We are told "to judge not, for, with what judgment we judge, we shall be judged." There is a judgment and "when ye judge, judge a righteous judgment." This judgment comes of the Spirit of Truth. It is not one of condemnation, because Christ came not to destroy but to save. Temperance people are all wrong in condemning those who do not see eye to eye with them. At one time some of the disciples came to Jesus saying, "Master, we saw them casting out devils, but they were not doing it in Thy name and so we forbade them." Jesus

said, "Forbid them not, for they that are not against us are for us." Partisans do not think this. They think that their way is the only way. But there is no condemnation when living up to the best light afforded. "She has done what she could." The condemnation is in the heart, as John says, "If our heart condemn us, God being greater than our heart, we are not assured before Him, but if our heart condemn us not then we are assured." Samson felt the Spirit of the Lord prompting him to go and take a wife from amongst the Philistines, which thing grieved his parents, they not knowing the Lord was with him, which shows that the Lord works to suit His own purposes. Is this not so? Let him or her who is "in the Lord," say yes or no. Satan transforms himself into an angel of light and he is continually getting up new things like parties. We are all right if we do the best we can. Prohibitionists who work with a party are continually contradicting this. If the party is right then those who are out of it are not doing the best they can. This

is the judgment pronounced by those in the party, and it is the very worst form of tyranny. It takes away all freedom of action. It is before the judgment seat of God that we all stand, and it is "before Him that every knee shall bow and tongue confess that He is the Lord." We must mind that. Why what is man that his fellow man should bow before him? Tut, his breath is only in his nostrils. What! does any man living know what his brother should do, or does any woman know what her sister should do? Every one of us has enough to do to mind our own business. There is such an immense amount of work for each one of us all to do that there is not time to bother ourselves about what others should do. We are responsible for not doing what we should do. Peter wanted to know what "this man should do," but was answered with, "What is that to thee? Follow thou Me." If others do not do what they should do that is their lookout and not ours. We shall never be responsible for their doings. We can work for prohibition without

casting them off. But they will be cut off themselves if they do not give God the glory, as it is written, "My Spirit will not always strive with man." Our spirit though is not the Spirit of God, and it is usurpation for us to move without the Holy Spirit of God.

Another very important amendment that is needed to the National Constitution is that granting the right of suffrage to women. Woman is the co-equal and companion of man. She is not his inferior nor is she his superior. If the right of suffrage would be degrading to woman then it is degrading to man. The use of this right by man is for the purpose of government, and woman, certainly should enjoy the privilege of governing herself. When man governs her he exercises authority over her, which is contrary to the Divine order in the beginning that said, "I will make an helpmeet for the man." The very term helpmeet implies equality between the man and woman, and if equality does exist, then, surely, woman has the right to assist in government. The right of

suffrage does not appear to be "woman's sphere," because custom has kept her from exercising it. Her "sphere" is quite the same as man's. She sits down at the same table that he does and eats the same things that he does, and eats also quite as much as he does. All through life she enjoys the same things as he does, and it only appears to some men that she is something quite different from man because she is a little differently constructed from him, but the right of suffrage has nothing to do with her especial construction nor has it anything to do with man's especial construction. On the other hand the right of suffrage will give to woman a greater privilege to enjoy her own individual existence as it will enlarge her field of usefulness. Woman has large abilities and she shows herself capable of carrying on great undertakings. England once showed the beautiful equality between man and woman in the reign of king William and queen Mary, and Spain also showed it in the reign of king Ferdinand and queen Isabella. If such

a state of affairs as these could exist all the time a new joy would be added to life. The right of suffrage to woman would not be making her usurp authority over the man. A Constitutional amendment in this respect would be another great advancement in the line of fuller liberties. Under the existing order of things where woman is deprived of her equal rights in the enjoyment of the right of suffrage she is a slave to man's authority. Previous to marriage man treats woman as his equal. He gives her his attentions and asks in the course of time if she will marry him, but after the marriage takes place he becomes "the head of the house." And so in governmental affairs he treats her as though he were indeed "the lord of creation." Why does he not keep up the idea of equality that he has when giving her his attentions to become his life partner at all times ? Why is he any more in authority over her at one time than at another ? Certainly common sense will answer that he has no such authority. Men and women are the

same everywhere, and as woman is upon grounds of equality in the attentions she receives from the opposite sex for the purpose of marriage so she should be upon the same grounds in all of the affairs of life.

Yet another very important amendment needed to the National Constitution is that recognizing social purity. Were intoxicants prohibited, woman suffrage granted, and the purity of the sexes Constitutionally recognized it would seem that the people of this country had about reached perfection. There is no doubt but that crime would still exist, but the whole people would not be in the degeneration. Where free agency exists the will to commit evil must also exist, but no wrong is such to a person until it is so understood. What may be great wickedness for one person may not be such to another, unless the latter is conscious of it. Hence with the existence of the present evils the people are not degenerated. Evil is such to him who esteems it to be evil. The circumstances of the times is a sufficient excuse for

falling short of "the mark of the high calling." But when knowledge and understanding present things in their true light then circumstances are no excuse, but we must rise above them and make them serve us instead of our serving them. It is in this way that the world has been progressing. Men have risen little by little above the circumstances of their times, and reforms have been gradually accomplished. Social purity with the recognition of the one standard of morality as regard the sexes is a reform that must be embodied in the Constitution. This reform will prevent the state regulation of vice, whereby young girls are used for the most grossly immoral purposes, when, in many cases, they have not even reached their teens. The idea of the purity reform is to abolish the awful immoral business, for it is carried on as a business, not only with the very young girls but with all ages. Such an amendment as this would be the very greatest advancement. Impurity is the greatest of all evils. It is the hand-maid of intoxicants, and were this abol-

ished the eyes of the people would be opened to see the other evil, with its prohibition very soon following the other prohibition.

The problems that are now pressing themselves for Constitutional amendment are greater than any that ever claimed the attention of the people of the country. Our forefathers were faithful in their day and generation and it behooves us that we be in ours. Different ages of the world call for new problems. Our work to-day is as much more important as the education of the past reforms has given us greater knowledge and understanding. If we fall short of our duty then we shall be unfaithful to the memory of the past. Many of those who have gone before us preached these things that are now being so strongly agitated and advocated, and who lived up to their preaching, but there were other problems to be solved that made these too great to be considered with them. Now, these questions are growing to be the most important, and the people will rise to a higher and grander

level. With the adoption of these amendments life will have new felicities added to it. But it will take struggling to adopt them. We must love the questions involved for their own sakes. We must prohibit intoxicants because of the terrible effects that follow their use. We must give woman the right of suffrage because of the elevation of her sex. We must prohibit social impurity in all of its forms because of its awful blighting effects.

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## CONCLUSION.

LET it be remembered in conclusion that the National Constitution is of great importance to all who live under its jurisdiction. A copy of it should be in every household. Commentaries upon it should be well circulated and the people learn to know what it contains and wherein it needs new additions. Although several new addi-

tions have been pointed out in this book, there are others that might profitably be commented upon. For instance, in the election of electors who choose the President and Vice-President, almost all the states at present nominate the whole number of electors to be chosen, while in one state, that of Michigan, the state is divided into districts and each district elects one elector. This way gives a much better representation in the electoral college and acts as a prevention to a state going solidly one way or the other. This question belongs to the legislatures of the states, as the National Constitution states, which has already been mentioned.

Civil service measures and civil service reform is a subject that has been brought to the attention of the public in the last few years and it is one which the National Constitution fully recognizes in its spirit. It certainly was never intended that the wise provisions of that instrument should be used to partisan ends, giving to the victors "the spoils of offices." The offices of the government

belong to those who serve the country faithfully without regard to party, and there can be no better way to determine who these are than through a commission who will give the rewards of office on merit without fear or favor. Where the incumbent of office has served faithfully he deserves a reward by the continuation in office without regard to any political changes that may have been made in an election. Indeed an election should determine questions of political economy—those measures which are best for the country, and not which men are best. Good men with honest purposes are found in all parties and in all conditions of life.

The proper way to study, then, the National Constitution is in its broad spirit for the good and the elevation of the whole country. Let it then be studied in this spirit.

THE END.

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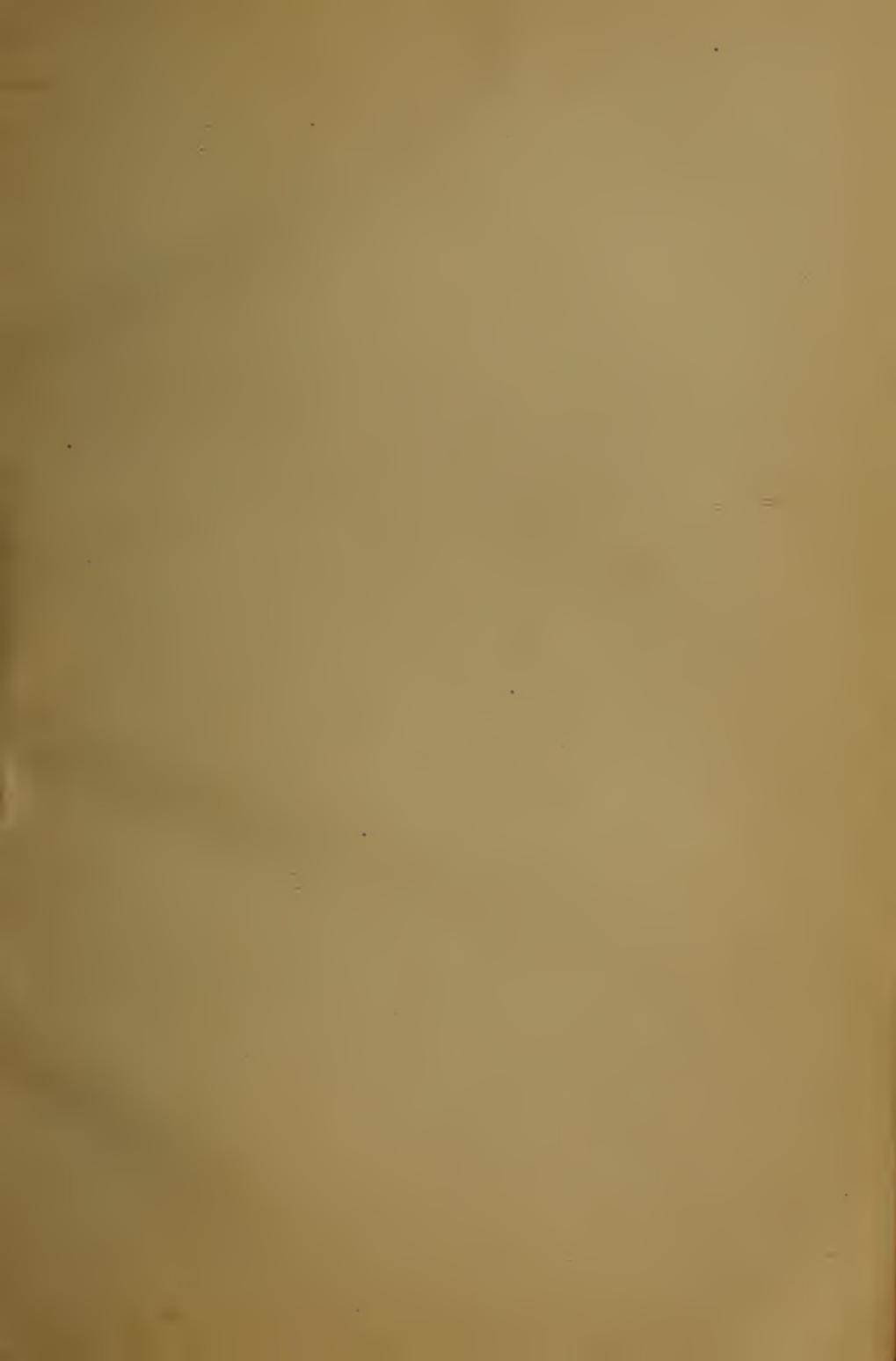
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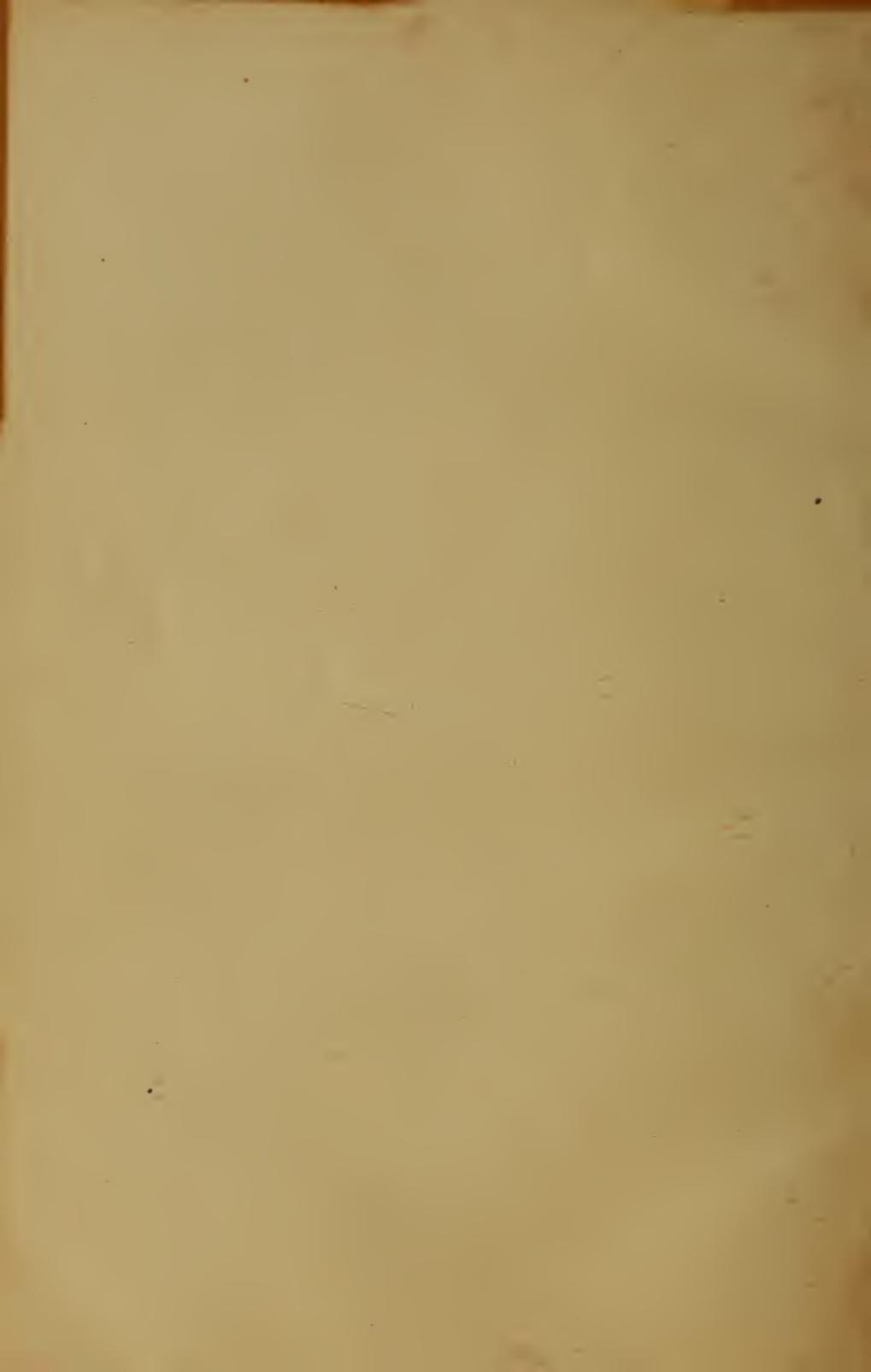
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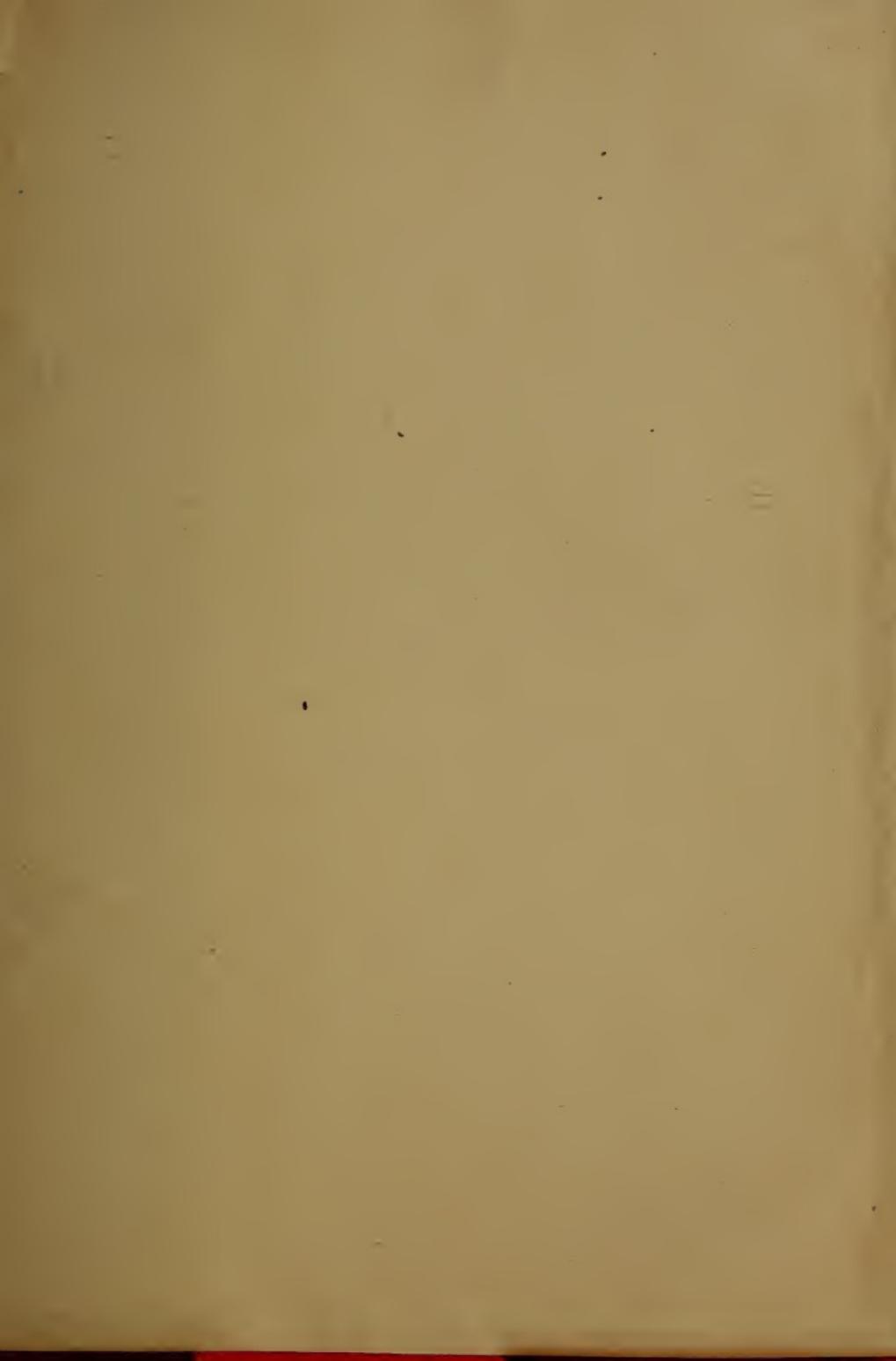
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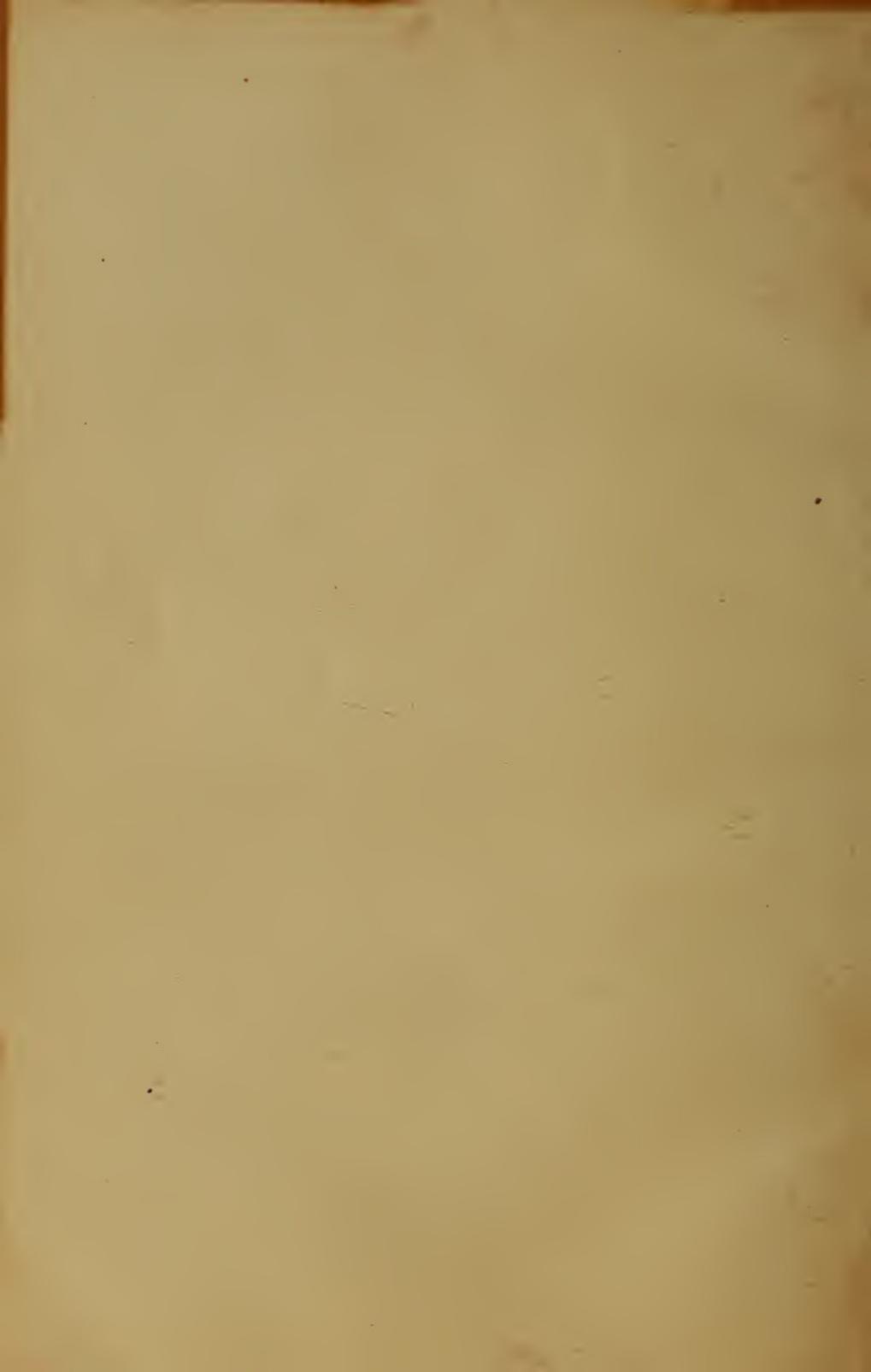


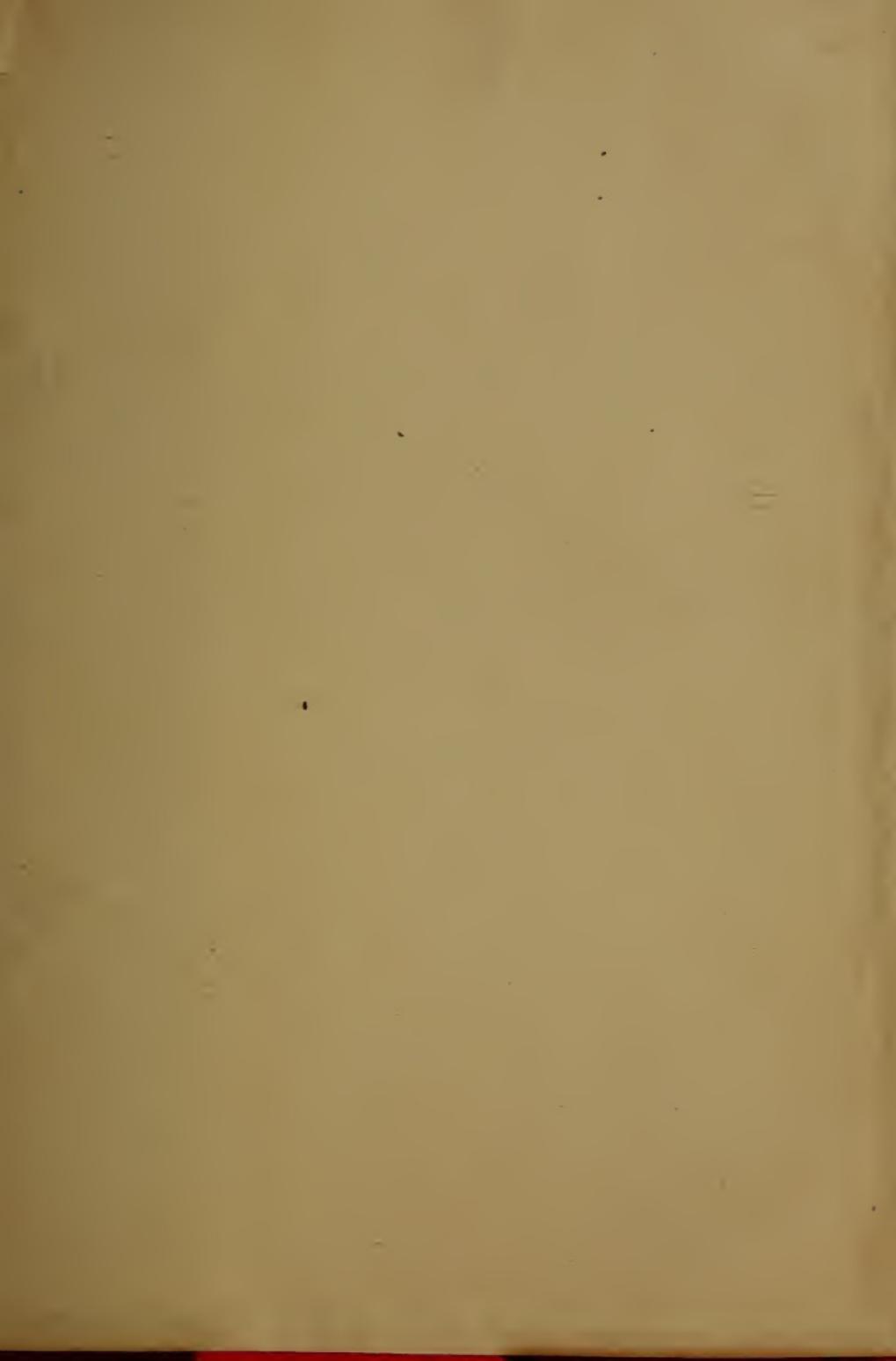












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